

CLASSIFICATION <u>SECRET</u>		
COUNTRY <u>East Germany</u>	REPORT	
TOPIC <u>Letzling Heath Troop Training Grounds</u>		
EVALUATION <u></u>	PLACE OBTAINED <u></u>	
DATE OF CONTENT <u></u>		
DATE OBTAINED <u></u>	DATE PREPARED <u>25 August 1954</u>	
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REMARKS <u></u>		
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1. On 25 June 1954, Waldlager II south of Huetten was still occupied to capacity by at least 1,500 soldiers. Intensive activity was observed in the camp. About 150 tanks, including some covered by tarpaulins, and at least 100 trucks were seen in a parking lot near the camp. Motor vehicles entered and left the installation. Aiming practice was conducted on 5 x 37-mm guns in an AAA emplacement just east of the road between Born and Letzlingen. Four JS tanks practiced driving and aiming south of Letzlingen.
2. On 7 July, 2 JS-3 tanks, 4 T-34/85 tanks, 2 JSU-122 guns and 4 x 85-mm AT guns fired north over distances of up to 8,000 meters from the Hillersleben-Salchau firing range. Tanks and guns took position close to each other. Officers watched the firing from 18 observation towers east and west of the firing lane. The area was cordoned off by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. At the same time, mortars fired from emplacements west of the firing line and north of the abovementioned tanks at targets in the firing lane.
3. Between 7 and 9 July, Waldlager I was occupied to capacity by 5,000 to 6,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. According to previous information, winter quarters of the soldiers were located in Burg. In addition to the soldiers, 80 to 100 Soviet families were quartered in the camp. Reports of infantry weapons were heard daily from the area east of the camp.
4. During the period under review, Waldlager III (Born) was occupied to capacity by 5,000 to 6,000 soldiers from Magdeburg.
5. During the period under review, Waldlager II south of Huetten was occupied by 5,000 to 6,000 soldiers and about 150 Soviet families from Rosslau. About 90 tanks including some covered by tarpaulins and about 30 three-axle trucks were seen near the camp. On 7 July, one armored personnel carrier, 15 sidecar motorcycles mounting light machine guns and truck entered the camp from a northerly direction.
6. At 2015 on 7 July, the Waldlager southeast of Jasvenitz appeared to be occupied. Individual soldiers were seen in the camp. Many windows were open. ¹

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7. On 7 July, the barracks installation south of Staats and Boergitz, south-southwest of Stendal, appeared to be occupied to capacity. The installation was fully lighted. 2
8. On 17 July, a shipment with 50 armored personnel carriers and 20 tanks reportedly arrived at the Haldensleben railroad station from the Frankfurt-border. The tanks proceeded to Hillersleben. Twenty unnumbered newly painted six-wheel armored personnel carriers were unloaded and left toward Letzling Heath. The unloading detail arrived at the station on trucks [redacted] [redacted] The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets. 2
1. [redacted] Comment. The information indicates that the known Waldlager were occupied as previously prior to early July. [redacted] The Hillersleben-Salchau firing range has been utilized by tank units of other armies as in 1953.
2. [redacted] Comment. The barracks installation in Staats is presumably occupied by units of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div. In preceding years, the occupation of the installation during the summer months included the 16th Gds Tank SP Regt of the division.
3. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the armored personnel carriers were probably assigned to the 7th Gds Tank Div. It is undetermined whether the tanks had also come from the USSR. They may have been bound for the 19th Gds Mech Div in Hillersleben.

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